



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 6, 2006

## **GUAVA FRUIT FLIES FOUND IN RANCHO PENASQUITOS**

*Treatment Being Applied, No Quarantine Area Needed for Now*

Two male Guava Fruit Flies were discovered on Wednesday, Oct. 4 in apple trees in the yards of two homes in Rancho Peñasquitos. These finds trigger treatments to eradicate the pest. The California Department of Food and Agriculture will begin "male annihilation" treatments in a 10 square-mile area today. The "male annihilation" treatment consists of applying a small patch of a pheromone attractant mixed with a very small dose of pesticide to street poles or trees, approximately eight feet off the ground. The males are attracted to the pheromone, eat the pesticide and die before they can mate.

"This treatment has successfully eradicated targeted pests in California for more than three decades and recently in San Diego County," said Agricultural Commissioner Bob Atkins. "This type of treatment was used in La Mesa to eradicate Oriental Fruit Flies. These eradication efforts were declared successful when they ended in September."

The Guava Fruit Fly is known to damage several tropical and subtropical fruits, and vegetables including oranges, peach, figs and tomatoes. Damage occurs when the female lays eggs inside the fruit. The eggs hatch into maggots that tunnel through the fruit, making it unfit for consumption. This destructive pest, native to eastern Asia, was first found in California in 1986. It has the potential to be very destructive to local crops and backyard fruit.

Residents of the Rancho Peñasquitos area are urged not to remove fruits and vegetables from the area as backyard fruits may be infested. The public can report suspicious flies and maggots in fruit to the **CDFA PEST HOTLINE at 1-800-491-1899**. For more information on Guava Fruit Flies, visit the CDFA web site: [http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/pdep/guava\\_fruit\\_fly\\_profile.htm](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/pdep/guava_fruit_fly_profile.htm)

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